

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 12875 050104Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 /084 W
-----022335 050410Z /16
R 040300Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4084

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 12875

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, TH
SUBJECT: MAY FIRST LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

REF: BANGKOK 11686

1. WHILE THAI WORKERS ENJOYED THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY, LABOR DAY RALLIES IN BANGKOK AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES ATTRACTED ONLY SMALL TURNOUTS AND PRODUCED NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS. APPROXIMATELY 3,000 WORKERS ATTENDED RTG-ORGANIZED CELEBRATION AT ROYAL PLAZA IN BANGKOK FEATURING 15-MINUTE ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, FOLLOWED BY DAY-LONG PROGRAM OF MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT.

2. RELATIVELY SMALL WORKER PARTICIPATION IN ROYAL PLAZA ACTIVITIES WAS RESULT PRIMARILY OF BITTER DISPUTE BETWEEN RTG AND LABOR CONGRESS OF THAILAND (LCT) OVER LABOR DAY PREPARATIONS. (SEE REFTEL). LCT PRESIDENT PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN OPENLY SNUBBED RTG LABOR DAY CELEBRATION BY DEPARTING UNEXPECTEDLY ON APRIL 26 FOR PRC AS PART OF THAI PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION. OTHER LCT LEADERS GAVE ONLY TOKEN SUPPORT TO RTG-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AND LCT RANK AND FILE, EITHER OUT OF SOLIDARITY OR TO AVOID THE SCORCHING 97 DEGREE HEAT, STAYED HOME.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 12875 050104Z

3. PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S LABOR DAY SPEECH WAS LARGELY BOILERPLATE. HOWEVER, HE DID SAY RTG WILL COMPLETE REVIEW OF MINIMUM WAGE RATE "SOON," WARNED WORKERS NOT TO LET THEMSELVES BE "USED AS TOOLS BY THE WRONG PEOPLE FOR THE WRONG PURPOSES" AND RESTATED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL STRIKES AND WORK ACTIONS. MANY WORKERS HAD HOPED PM

WOULD USE OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE NEW MINIMUM WAGE RATES.

4. COMMENT: RTG EFFORT TO STAGE MANAGE LABOR DAY CELEBRATION HAS OBVIOUSLY FALLEN FLAT. ALTHOUGH LCT PRESIDENT PHAISAN THAWATCHAINEN HAS HERETOFORE GENERALLY SUPPORTED PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK, PHAISAN WAS CLEARLY MIFFED BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S DECISION TO PREEMPT HIS EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE LABOR DAY CELEBRATION AND TREAT LCT AS ONLY ONE OF FOUR COMPETING LABOR FACTIONS. IF NOTHING ELSE, LCT RANK AND FILE'S DE FACTO BOYCOTT OF OFFICIAL LABOR DAY CELEBRATION DEMONSTRATES PHAISAN'S STRENGTH WITHIN RANKS OF ORGANIZED LABOR AND SHOULD SERVE AS REMINDER TO PRIME MINISTER THAT HE CANNOT TAKE LCT SUPPORT FOR GRANTED.

WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, LABOR DAY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO12875
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-0745
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780595/aaaadcrd.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ff398a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 11686
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2797477
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY FIRST LABOR DAY CELEBRATION
TAGS: ELAB, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ff398a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014